30-12-1985 (31-12-1985 being a bank holiday). This overdraft remained for one day only.

SHRI M. S. RAMACHANDRAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to note the trend, if the information provided is correct. Till recently there was a lot of news appearing in the press that almost all the States were having huge amounts of overdrafts. But the statement of the Minister says that this overdraft was only for one day. Since I have mentioned a particular date, I cannot go beyond that, I know my limitations. But I would like to ask our Finance Minister whether this trend is a steady trend because of the persuasion made by the Finance Ministry or is it because they are just having an imbalance on a particular day and then the very next day they again draw huge amounts as overdrafts.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the information given is correct. There were only two exceptions earlier. But to date there is no overdraft and the information given is correct.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, I agree with the Finance Minister that fiscal discipline is necessary. But that discipline should not be applied only in the case of States. The Finance Minister, who submitted a Budget with a deficit of Rs. 3,650 crores the other day, cannot be harsh towards States, because this itself is an overdraft. He may be having security presses under his control, but nevertheless this defict constitutes an overdraft.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question relates to overdrafts.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The States have also got a responsibility toward their people, keeping in view the natural calamities that they have to face and the number of welfare schemes that are being executed by them. Therefore, the decision of the Government of India to impose such a harsh rule on the States and not to allow them the overdraft is not correct. Recently also in the case of administered prices, the States have been affected. Therefore, Sir, it is time that he must review the situation and whenever the States have got genuine difficulties they must be allowed to have overdrafts. There should be no hard and fast rule that the States cannot have any overdraft. Will the Government of India reconsider their decision and allow the States to exceed their limit, at least in the case of those States which are observing strict fiscal discipline? He should not be strict in their case.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, so far as the difficulties of the States are concerned, we do understand that the receipts and withdrawals of the States may not match from day to day. For that purpose a leeway of ways and means is given. But the States should not exceed that. Even if it exceeds that for seven days we do not do anything. But if it crosses seven days, we stop payment of cheques in that fashion. So far as the question of Centre coming up with a deficit Budget is concerned, Parliament authorises only the Central Government to create a deficit and print money for that. We cannot allow every State to have that authority otherwise the whole financial system will go haywire. That cannot be agreed to. And overdraft of the State is in a way, printing money which cannot be allowed recklessly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Setting up of Three Star Hotels at the places of Buddhist Pilgrimage

*227. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:†

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Three Star Hotels at the places of Buddhist Pilgrimage during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Lokesh Chandra.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) There is no Government proposal to set up any new 3 star hotels at the places of Buddhist pilgrimage during the Seventh Plan period. However, the existing Travellers Lodge of India Tourism Development Corporation at Bodhgaya is being expanded and converted into 3 star hotel by adding a new block of 18 rooms and 25 cottages at an estimated cost of Rs. 160.00 lakhs.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Has the Government received any offers from Japan for the construction of cheap hotels in places of Buddhist pilgrimage?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I am not aware of that and in case the hon.Member has some information, I request him to pass it on to me and I will see what, according to the policy, can be done.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, Sanchi is a very important pilgrimage centre but unfortunately enough arrangement is not made to attract tourists—not to speak of foreign tourists, but even tourists from our own country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether special attention is being paid to the development of tourism in Sanchi, including provision of certain loans etc. to private people to build good tourist huts there.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sanchi is, no doubt, an important place. The Department had received proposal for landscaping and building a restarurant complex at Sanchi at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.20 lakhs which has now been sanctioned. This is about development at Sanchi. The proposal has been cleared and sanctioned. About the other part of the question whether Government will give loans to private people, it is a matter of general policy and I might say that the Government is very keen that private sector comes in a big way and it can play a big role in development of tourist complexes including hotels, restaurants and other things and they do get some financial loans etc. from the public institutions in developing tourist hotels etc. at a rate of interest.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: I want to know what is the tariff range of three-star hotel and secondly, who are the primary occupants of these three-star hotels both foreigners and Indians.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I do not know the figure; the hon. Member had put that question to me previously also and my answer is the same.

I do not have the figures with me as to the number of foreigners and Indians. But so far as foreign tourists are concerned, they are not being denied any accommodation; there has been enough accommodation. In fact, now the hotels are all full; otherwise we had no problem at all. So far as the rates are concerned, it is—I am subject to correction—I think Rs. 300 or so in the three-star hotel.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: To cater to the needs of the middle-class tourists who cannot afford to stay in 3 star hotels where they have to pay Rs. 300 per day, I want to know whether the Government is thinking of constructing such hotels with one room and toilet and bath so that it may be a one-star hotel. The tourists do not want other amenities; they want a clean one-room with bath and toilet. Is the Government proposing to have such hotels to cater to the middle-class tourists?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. The question relates to three-star hotels in Buddhist centres.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister about three-star hotels and the involvement of the state in the construction of hotels as such. The record of the State's intervention in the construction of hotels and the return that public money has received from it is not encouraging. Therefore, I would like to find out from the hon. Minister whether he would consider total dissociation of the State from the construction of hotels, whether five-star or three-star.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, I cannot, unfortunately, agree with the hon. Member, in regard to his suggestion for total dissociation. Of course, about the five-star hotels, as I have already said, it has been decided that in the Seventh Plan period, there will be no five-star hotels in the public sector, except one in Bombay, which is required to complete the chain of ITDC hotels in Bombay. As far as other hotels are concerned. We cannot totally dissociate. There is need and some projects are going on. They are joint ventures between the State Tourist Corporations, the ITDC and so on. Complete dissociation would not be good. Of course, we would very much like the private sector to come in a big way. Sir, I now have the figures in regard to the three-star hotels. The rates are Rs. 210 to Rs. 400 for single room and Rs. 265 to Rs. 475 for double room, air-conditioned. These are the rates for air-conditioned rooms. I am correcting the answer which I gave earlier. As far as the question is concerned, whether there are any losses, whether they are productive or not, I can say that the three-star hotels are not doing badly.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Lord Buddha lived and preached in that part of the country, which now falls in Bihar and U.P. Both the States are backward and if some hotels are constructed. it will help in tackling the problem of backwardness to some extent. Of course, there may be a few hotels in Gaya, where he preached, where he attained knowledge, Gyana, or in Varanasi. But the most important places in the case of such divine persons are the places where they are born and where they die. Lord Buddha was born at a place which is now in Nepal. As regards his place of death, it is U.P. in Deoria District, in Kasia. In January this year, I went there. But I found that there was absolutely no hotel there. The biggest statue of Buddha is there lying down. He died at this place. But there is no hotel. I do not mind whether it is five-star or three-star or one-star. I would like to know whethe the Government will consider having some hotel at Kasia where Lord Buddha breathed his last and where there is no hotel at present.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: As far as the question of having a hotel at the place which the hon. Member referred to, according to the information so far available with me, there is no such proposal. I shall get this suggestion examined. Now, so far as the question of developing the tourist infrastructure is concerned, in the places of Buddhist pilgrimage—there are such places not only in U.P. and Bihar, but in other parts of the country as well—particularly in the places where Lord Buddha lived and worked. In U.P. and Bihar, a master plan in association with the Archaeological Survey of India, in regard to Buddhist place of pilgrimage, is under preparation. The rough estimate is that Rs. 100 crores will be required to develop these places, resources for which will have to be met together by the Central Government, the State Governments and the private sector.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sir, the hon. Minister is aware that there are many places of Buddhist pilgrimage in India, Bodh Gaya, Sanchi, Saranath Lumbini etc. I have visited these places and I have found that the hotel facilities in these places are not adequate so far as foreign tourists are concerned. Will the hon. Minister, who is very keen to develop tourism in India, take steps improve the hotel facilities in these places in the interest of foreign tourists?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: As I said earlier, Government is very keen to develop the infrastructure in India and to have some more hotel accommodation in these places. Government is quite keen. As I said, the policy is to have joint ventures between the State Governments and the Central Government. It is not that there are no hotels in these places. I have the figures to show that there are a number of hotels in these places like Varanasi, like Bodh Gaya and a few other places.

There are hotels and some of the hotels are quite good and their number is fairly large. I do agree that it needs supplementing and for that the Central Government is quite keen, but as I said, as far as the question of resources is concerned, it cannot be only the Central Government or the Tourist Corporation. All resources of the Central Government, Tourist Corporation and private companies...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said it three times.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hotel Corporation of India has already constructed one hotel near Nalanda which is losing Rs. 40 lakhs a year. The hotel remains closed for six months in summer season. May I know what steps he is going to take so that the hotel does not make any loss? Also, to attract the tourists what steps they are going to take....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. Any other thing.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: It is a government hotel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question does not relate to profit and loss.

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: The hotel is already there and it is losing. There is no customer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next Question.

Demand and supply position of rubber

*228. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the country's rubber demand is met indigenously and what is the annual import of rubber (with value) to meet the gap between demand and supply;

(b) what was the acreage under rubber cultivation at the beginning of the Sixth Plan period and what was its acreage by the end of the Sixth Plan period alongwith the comparative increase in the indigenous production of rubber as a result thereof; and

(c) in what manner the expansion programme is likely to be carried out during the Seventh Plan period to make the country self-sufficient in the production of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) About 85 per cent of the Country's rubber demand is met indigenously. About 30000 tonnes valued at about Rs. 30 crores are imported annually.

(b) The area under rubber cultivation and actual production of rubber in 1979-80 and in 1984-85 is given as below:—

Year	Area (Hectares)	Production (in tonnes)
1979-80	2,56,590	1,48,470
1984-85	3,50,000	1,86,450

(c) Programmes for the spread of rubber in areas having suitable agroclimatic conditions as well as programmes of replanting using high yielding clones are being undertaken with ultimate goal of reaching self sufficiency.

However, since rubber tree has a long gestation period the additional production of rubber from the activities undertaken in the 7th Plan, will become available only much later.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, is it a fact that the outlay on rubber development during the Plan has been